

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • September 2009

Smirnov Dynasty Parallels Russia's Historical Travails

EVENT PREVIEW: SEPTEMBER 14

by Aimee Rinehart

As if a book on a 19th century Russian liquor magnate that a Barnes and Noble review calls "meticulously researched and notably sober historical narrative" wasn't reason enough to attend this Monday, September 14 event, the OPC has also arranged for a Smirnoff vodka tasting.

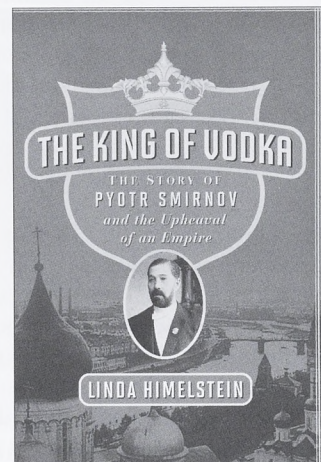
Journalist Linda Himmelstein (formerly *BusinessWeek*) will discuss her book *King of Vodka: The Story of Pyotr Smirnov and the Upheaval of an Empire* [Harper Collins, 2009]. This rags-to-riches story of an uneducated serf who rose so high in the Russian court that he won the imprimatur of the Czar for his vodka.

The book brings together more than four years of research by Himmelstein and Tatiana Glezer, a researcher and translator in Moscow. The two journalists culled through multiple archives in Russia and the United States and interviewed many Smirnov descendants and others who filled them in on the life and times of Pyotr Smirnov, who was uneducated, eventually liberated from serfdom, made a fortune in vodka and lost it all following the Russian revolution.

Himmelstein has worked in the Washington bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*, *The San Francisco Recorder* and *Legal Times*, but it was in New York in 1996 where she worked as legal affairs editor at *BusinessWeek* and first came into contact with the Smirnov family. She cov-



Linda Himmelstein



ered a lawsuit filed by Smirnov's descendants who wanted to return the trademarks and copyrights of the vodka empire and wrote the January 15, 1996 story, Who Owns the Smirnoff Name?, which earned

BusinessWeek's publisher's award.

Himmelstein relocated to San Francisco in 1996 to write for *BusinessWeek* then became its Silicon Valley Bureau Chief,

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OPC Boosters Exceed Fund-Raising Match Historic Fund-Raising Drive Strengthens Club's Mission

by Allan Dodds Frank

This just in: If there was ever any doubt that news people are deadline junkies, the Overseas Press Club dispelled it by topping its fund-raising goal 90 minutes before midnight on the last day, August 6th.

Wow. What a victory and what a marvelous vote of confidence in the OPC. What a push by our membership and our friends to meet the \$25,000 challenge grant given to the OPC by four journalism foundations.

Since the \$25,000 matching money came with strings, we actually raised \$32,275. That was a result of the foundations forcing benefactors to top their gifts of last three years before any of their generosity would counted against the challenge match.

Many of our board and others, including some former OPC winners, were exceptionally helpful and generous.

Here are the numbers. Our base membership is 530 people and we had 106 donors, some of whom are friends of the club. However you slice it, that honor roll of benefactors represents more than 20 percent of our bulk. That level of participation doubles the rate of success achieved by the much larger groups, such as the Society of American Business Editors and Writers (SABEW) and Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE). They each made their goals at the end with more than 10 percent participation – also spectacular achievements.

To each and every one of our donors who gave us the true vote of confidence,

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Smirnov Book Night: (Continued From Page 1)

but she didn't forget the Smirnovs. By the end of 2004, she left the magazine and started researching, reporting and writing to bring together *The King of Vodka*.

Himelstein writes in a recent blog that reading *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*, the tale of a horse who came from almost nothing to win some of the greatest treasures in horse-racing history, inspired her to pursue the Smirnov story. "Not only did I love the story itself, but I also loved reading about the lives of jockeys, the infancy of the automobile, developments in gambling, and a slew of other meaty historical topics," she writes. "Smirnov's story was similar...[and was] every bit as dramatic as I had imagined."

Himelstein reports that tracing Smirnov's earliest years proved daunting as his birthplace, Kayurovo, no longer exists, his local church is gone and no archives or written memoirs about life in Kayurovo in the 1830s could be located. She relied on oral histories from local ethnographers to recreate the environment in which Smirnov likely lived.

The book follows Smirnov's liberation from serfdom to become one of Russia's wealthiest and most prominent merchants. Through the Smirnov story, the history of Russia is also laid out with reforms in Russia that led to the emancipation of serfs, labor strikes, social uprisings, a government-imposed vodka monopoly, the Bolshevik revolution and the chaos it unleashed.

The bizarre escape of one of Smirnov's sons from a prison in 1919 preserved the Smirnov legacy. Today, Smirnoff vodka is the best-selling premium spirit in the world, is distributed in 130 countries and worth an estimated \$4.7 billion.

On Himelstein's website, www.lindahimelstein.com, an interactive map of Smirnov's trajectory, which includes a stop in



Pyotr Smirnov

Bethel, Connecticut where the first U.S. Smirnov factory opened in March 1934.

The Wall Street Journal calls the King of Vodka "a colorful chronicle of the rise of a business. Himelstein...keeps her narrative moving neatly along, distilling complex matters of commerce into a clear and readable form." And Tilar Mazzeo, author of *The Widow Clicquot* writes that "the story of the Smirnov family is an operatic tour-de-force, and Himelstein tells it with grace and passion."

Join us for what's sure to be a memorable Book Night with *The King of Vodka* and a Smirnoff vodka tasting on Monday, September 14 at 6 pm at Club Quarters, 40 West 45th Street, New York. RSVP by e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org or call the OPC office at: 212-626-9220.

Grant Challenge Recap: (Continued From Page 1)

the OPC thanks you as profusely as possible. Please count on the club to spend the money efficiently and wisely. And remember, we are always open to suggestions and new ideas. Please fire away.

Thanks so much, Allan Dodds Frank
OPC President

How do we plan to use the money? We plan to supercharge our website, making it strong, faster, more resistant to hackers, more endowed with video and stills and literary contributions from members. We expect to make the website a go-to destination for young reporters planning to report from exotic locales abroad. We would also like to print a membership directory and our Freedom of the Press Committee will be more vigilant than ever. We will have more and better programs. We are open to suggestions and recommendations from our members.

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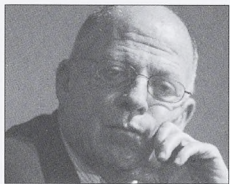
PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

GLOBAL:

Sadly reporting the murders of more journalists. **Malik Akhmedilov**, deputy editor of the weekly newspaper *Hakikat*, drove to a shop in Dagestan in Russia's North Caucasus August 12 to buy an item for his wife. Local builders heard gunshots and alerted police who found Akhmedilov dead in his car with bullet wounds to his stomach. Akhmedilov was known for his critical reporting on attempts by local and federal authorities to suppress political and religious "extremism," and his "investigative articles about the unsolved assassinations of high-ranking officials in the volatile Russian republic," Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty reported.

Radio journalist **Godofredo Linao** received a text message inviting him to a restaurant in Barobo, a Philippine coastal town, around 1:00 a.m. July 27. He parked his motorcycle and crossed the road to the restaurant when an unidentified gunman fatally shot him four times. Host of a current affairs program on Bislig City's Radyo Nitin, Linao often focused on local government corruption. Four journalists have been killed in the Philippines this year.

In Mexico, also on July 27, **Juan Daniel Martínez Gil**, host of Radiorama's evening news broadcasts, was murdered and his half-buried body found 13 kilometers from Acapulco. "His body was buried, there was tape covering his face, he was beaten, swollen and shirtless," said station news director **Ana Rosa Palma**.



Juan Daniel
Martínez Gil

With over 30 years in the media, Martínez Gil was at least the fourth journalist killed in Mexico this year.

Alireza Eftekhari, 29, who worked five years for the Iranian newspaper *Abrar Economy* until last year, died June 15 as the result of a cerebral attack after being beaten, Reporters Without

Borders reported. "Efterkharth is the first journalist to die in the course of the crack-down launched by the Iranian authorities after the results of the 12 June presidential election were announced."



BANJUL, Gambia: Six Gambian journalists were found guilty in July on charges of seditious publication after they supported a Gambia Press Union statement criticizing the government. The statement criticized President Yahya Jammeh for saying the government had "no stake" in the 2004 killing of **Deyda Hyndara**, editor of the newspaper *The Point*. **Michael Kudlak**, deputy director of the International Press Institute, said, "The conviction of these journalists is yet another serious step in the Gambian government's campaign of harassment against the media. This case should never have been brought. The six journalists should be set free immediately and unconditionally."



President Yahya
Jammeh

CAIRO: **Max Strasser**, who won the OPC Foundation's 2008 Kendrick scholarship, graduated from Oberlin College this May and started work in September as an editor on the English-language edition of *Al-Masy Al-Youm*, an Egyptian daily. In a report to **Jane Reilly**, the OPC Foundation's Executive Director, Strasser wrote, "I remember when I was in New York for the scholarship luncheon and ceremony that a number of people were talking about the good opportunities at English-language newspapers in foreign coun-



Max Strasser

tries. It was at that point that I first got the idea and now it's become a reality." Strasser speaks Spanish, German and Arabic, and he spent one semester in Jordan mastering Arabic.



Alberto Ravell President of Globovision

CARACAS: In May, Nicolas Maduro, President of the Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez's United Socialist Party of Venezuela, accused the 24-hour news channel Globovision, the nation's last independent TV broadcaster, of "media terrorism," and described the station and its director, **Alberto Ravell**, as "violators of the constitution and of the rights of Venezuelans" as well as being "anti-democratic, failed and fascist." The allegations were denied by the station with Ravell saying the government investigation was "laughable" and meant to intimidate the media.

But no one laughed on July 3 when 30 armed, pro-government activists raided the premises of Globovision during a live newscast and exploded two tear gas canisters. Two security guards, another Globovision employee and a police officer were injured during the attack.

CENTREVILLE, Virginia: **Arnold Zeitlin** returned home in July after seven years in China, where he was a visiting professor at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. In an e-mail to friends, Zeitlin, a



Arnold Zeitlin

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former AP and then UPI executive in Asia, wrote that he probably will remain in Virginia until the end of this year and will undergo cataract surgery. "I hope to continue to meet students in China, although I do not want to teach on a regular basis," Arnold wrote.

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut:

President Obama's White House beer summit with **Professor Henry Louis (Skip) Gates Jr.**, a frequent op-ed writer and TV documentary reporter, and Cambridge Police Sergeant James Crowley brought back a memory to the "People" columnist. Gates taught at Cornell University before moving on to Duke University and then to Harvard. One afternoon when this columnist was a PR writer at Cornell, he ran into Gates buying a case of beer in an off-campus convenience store. Asked why he was buying so much beer, Gates replied that he had to reschedule one of his classes for an evening session and to make up for the inconvenience to his students he was going to serve them beer.

HARGEISA, Somaliland:

Mohamed Osman Mire, director of Radio Horyaal, and **Ahmed Suleyman Dhuhul**, the broadcaster's news editor, were sentenced to six months in prison in August for "disseminating information that resulted in loss of life and property." But under Somaliland law, they were allowed to buy off their prison time by paying a fine of 2.5 million Somaliland shillings (about U. S. \$373). Police said the two broadcasters misreported a meeting between Somaliland President Dahir Rayale Kahin and elders from Gabiley province, inciting violence that broke out after the meeting ended in dispute. Testifying for the defense, a tribal elder who attended the meeting with the president said that nothing in the defendants' July 10 broadcast incited violence.

HELSINKI: The Russian newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* received this year's Free Media Pioneer Award from the International Press Institute at its annual meeting in June. The Institute said *Novaya Gazeta* "has withstood mounting government efforts to control the media and has paid dearly for its intre-

Recent Departures and Appointments at the AP

About 100 AP news, technology and business staffers accepted the wire service voluntary buyout offer: \$500 for each year served and a pension increase. Voluntary resignation was offered in May to all 2,500 employees based in the United States if they were 55 years old and with at least 10 years of vested service. Deadline to accept was July 27. AP announced last year that it wanted to reduce its worldwide labor costs by 10 percent by the end of 2009.

In New York, **Richard Pyle** ("don't ever call me Dick") retired after 49 years with AP. His career spanned bureau manager during the Vietnam War to the U. S. Airways passenger jet crash in the Hudson River this January. "I was one of the first guys on the riverbank in 10 degree weather watching this airplane float by with people on the wing," he said in describing one of his last assignments at age 75. Here are some of Pyle's comments in a recent interview with **Dana Kennedy** of the Huffington Post:

"I've been very lucky. The second half of the 20th century was the golden age of journalism. The cutoff point was 9-11. Everything's changed since then. It was the heyday."

"My biggest single scoop was the news of Spiro Agnew's resignation. I got it nine minutes ahead of Reuters. *The Washington Star* stopped the presses and put it on page one. What year was that? (Pauses) 1973."

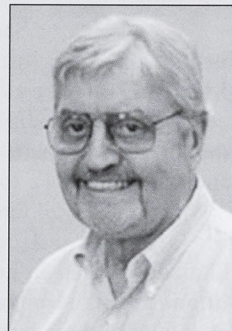
"If you were a young guy like me, unmarried, you couldn't let this story [Vietnam War] go by. I didn't know if I could cut it but I had to be there. In the end, they had to drag me kicking and screaming out of that place. It was the greatest story I've ever had. It was at the most important and influential and life changing. Most of my best friends today, like **George Esper**, were with me in the Saigon bureau. We're like brothers. The AP bureau in Saigon was the greatest news bureau that ever existed. We went head to head with UPI and it was a fiercely competitive situation."

"No [not disappointed when assigned to New York after working as a foreign correspondent]. I made my peace with it and came here. I've covered a lot of big stories here, mob trials, 9-11. I was right there when the second tower came down."

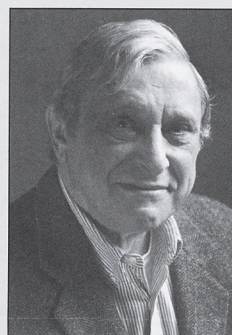
"I come from the era of professional journalists. You could go to 20 journalism schools but we all learned our jobs by doing them."

In Washington, **Ron Edmonds**, senior AP White House photographer, retired, writing in an e-mail to his colleagues, "I have had one of the most fantastic jobs in the world." He won a 1982 Pulitzer Prize for spot news photography with his pictures of President Reagan being shot outside the Washington Hilton. During 28 years with AP, Edmonds covered U. S. presidents and vice presidents in China, Russia and Egypt; ducked behind a rock in the Iranian desert while Iraqi artillery shells exploded around him; and drank lemonade with Jordanian King Hussein and Queen Noor at their summer home. But Edmonds said one of his most rewarding awards "was when my daughter Ashley came home from elementary school one day and announced that she was so proud, because that day she was able to raise her hand and tell the teacher that the picture on the front of her *Weekly Reader* was taken by her dad."

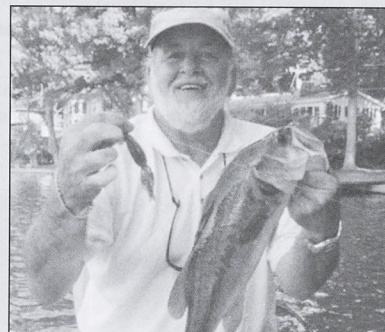
Meanwhile, **Malcolm Foster**, who was born and raised in Japan, the son of Methodist missionaries, was appointed AP Tokyo bureau chief July 27. Announcing the appointment, **John Daniszewski**, AP senior managing editor, said Foster "with roots in Japan since childhood...has a passion for the country and deep knowledge that will illuminate his coverage for a world audience." Foster moved to Tokyo from Bangkok, where he was business editor for the Asia-Pacific region. After six years with Bloomberg News in Tokyo and New York, he joined AP's international desk in New York in 1999. Foster, 43, succeeded **Joseph Coleman**, who resigned to teach at Indiana University.



Richard Pyle



George Esper



Ron Edmonds with a recent catch on a lake near his home.

pid reporting over the last decade." Since 2000, four of the newspaper's journalists have been murdered: **Igor Domnikov**, beaten to death in 2000; **Yuri Shchekochikhin**, poisoned in 2003; **Anna Politkovskaya**, gunned down in 2006; and **Anastasia Baburova**, who was shot this January while trying to help Politkovskaya's lawyer, **Stanislav Markelov**, who was slain on a Moscow street moments before Baburova was shot.

IPI Director **David Dadge** said *Novaya Gazeta* was honored for its defense of press freedom, adding, "Twenty years on from the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Russian media...has been reduced to a brave whisper. In modern Russia, there are few media organizations, particularly in broadcasting, that can claim to be free from the influence of government and who are not in service of the state."



David Dadge

HONG KONG: To mark the 60th anniversary of the Foreign Correspondents' Club move from Shanghai to Hong Kong, the Club's magazine *The Correspondent* published remembrances from five former Club presidents in its May/June issue. **Tony Paul**, president two terms 1977 to 1979: "Our Club has long been an unmatched source for reporting advice. A young correspondent could always turn to [**Robert**] **Shaplen** or some other Asia hand who was generous with contacts and advice."

Philip Bowring, 1985 to 1986 and 1993 to 1994: "The prime significance of the FCC to me is not having twice being president. It is where I met my wife. It was October 1980 I, then between the *Financial Times* and *Far Eastern Economic Review*, was there for a post-squash, pre-lunch drink. She was a reporter for the *HK Standard* who had never set foot in the place and just there to report a lunchtime speech."

Stephen Vines, 1992 to 1993: "I [was] accused of being only interested in the Club's media functions and excessively focused on what are politely called its social functions. Naturally I plead guilty to all the above because I

believe what makes the Club work is precisely this mixture of the social and the media aspects of the FCC."

Keith B. Richburg, 1997 to 1998: "When I was a correspondent traveling around Southeast Asia for *The Washington Post* – covering the riots in Jakarta, the insurgency in Aceh, the coup in Cambodia and the militia sacking and burning of East Timor – the FCC was my island of calm, an oasis of stability."

Karl Wilson, 2000 to 2001 "The FCC is an institution among correspondents in Asia, established during an era when journalism stood for something more than the fast-food entertainment journalism typical today."

In another article, the magazine reported on the August 1945 meeting between Chairman Mao Tse-tung and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in the Chongqing Foreign Correspondents' Club, the only place the two opposing Chinese leaders could agree on.

"Members and staff were barred from the building for security reasons and neither side had much to say to the press as the talks slowly fizzled out with neither side in particularly good faith," **Paul French** wrote in the FCC magazine. French is the author of *Through the Looking Glass: China's Foreign Journalists from Opium to Mao* [Hong Kong University Press].



Stephen Vines



Keith B. Richburg



Paul French

Tony Lawrence came to Hong Kong in 1955 for BBC and has never left except while traveling around Asia on assignments and a brief return to England. Members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club gathered August 13 to celebrate Lawrence's 97th birthday. A past president of the Club, he

retired from BBC in 1975 but continued covering news from Hong Kong as a freelancer. Six years ago, Lawrence spent six weeks in his native England to determine where he should live out his years. He selected Hong Kong, where his wife died several years ago.

KABUL: Two AP journalists were wounded August 11 when their vehicle ran over a bomb while traveling with U.S. soldiers in southern Afghanistan near the Pakistani border. Photographer **Emilio Morenatti**, 40, a Spaniard, was injured in his left leg and lost his left foot in surgery. He was named Photographer of the Year in 2009 by Pictures of the Year International. TV News videographer **Andi Jatmiko**, 44, of Indonesia suffered leg injuries and two broken ribs. Two soldiers riding with them also received leg wounds, one of them severe.



Emilio Morenatti



Lubna Hussein

KHARTOUM: The trial of Sudanese journalist **Lubna Hussein** on charges of wearing trousers in public was postponed until September, apparently to give judges time to decide whether her job as a U. N. media officer grants her immunity, the International Press Institute reported. She resigned from the U. N. position so she could fight the charges. Hussein and 12 other women were arrested in a restaurant July 3 by public order police for "sensational dressing up" by wearing trousers and threatening the values of Sudanese society. Ten of the women pleaded guilty and received 10 lashes and fined 250 Sudanese pounds (about 75 Euros). If found guilty, Hussein will face 40

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(Continued From Page 5)

lashes because she fought the charges.

Amal Habbani, a woman journalist who edits a column in the newspaper *Ajrass Al Horreya*, was charged with defaming the police by publishing an article defending Hussein and titled "Lubna...A Case of Subduing a Woman's Body." If convicted, Habbani could be fined 10 million Sudanese pounds (almost 3 million Euros).

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia: Slovenia charged Finnish journalist **Magnus Berglund** this summer with two counts of criminal defamation after he produced a documentary that claimed that members of the former Slovene government accepted bribes in arms deals with Finnish arms maker Patria. Produced by Finland's national broadcaster YLE, the 2008 documentary was shown in Finland and Slovenia. Former Prime Minister Janez Jansa was one of the officials who accepted bribes, the documentary said.

MANILA: Before **David McNeill**, a Tokyo-based correspondent for *The*

Irish Times, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and *The Independent*, was introduced to Imelda Marcos, her friend, U.S.-educated lawyer Robert Sison, told him, "You have to realize that when Mrs. Marcos talks about being poor, she does not mean poor like you or I. She is being relative, compared to the life she used to live before." By some accounts, Imelda spent \$5 million on foreign shopping sprees when her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, was president of the Philippines.

MONTREAL: **Hugh Haugland**, a cameraman for CTV, and his pilot, **Roger Bélanger**, were killed August 5 when their helicopter crashed northwest of Montreal.

Haugland, 44, had been recording tornado damage when the helicopter crashed.



Hugh Haugland

NEW YORK: **George de Lama**, former Managing Editor for news at the *Chicago Tribune* and then a freelance editor, resigned as an active OPC board member in August when he became External Relations Advisor at the Inter-American Development Bank. But based on guidance from the bank's ethics office, he continues as an Alternate OPC board member. De Lama, a former correspondent in Central and South America and the White House, was elected to the board in 2007 and re-elected this year. **Toni Reinhold**, Reuters business editor in New York, took his seat on the board, moving up from Alternate board member.



George de Lama



Toni Reinhold

Thomas Kent, a former AP Foreign Correspondent, was appointed Standards Editor and Deputy Managing Editor in charge of the wire service's new Standards Center on July 31. "Kent and the editors he oversees will work with department heads and regional editors to ensure uniform and high standards essential for the AP's credibility and reliability," an AP news release said. An AP Deputy Managing Editor since 1999, Kent's past AP posts include International editor, Deputy News Editor, Editor of World Services, Moscow Bureau Chief, Chief of Operations in Tehran during the Iranian revolution, correspondent at NATO and the European Union in Brussels, and Sydney correspondent.

ABC newsman **Bob Woodruff**, 48, who in July spent several days in the Iraq war zone for the first time since he was seriously injured there by a roadside bomb in 2006, went on to Afghanistan to meet U. S. medical personnel in that war zone. He was traveling with Admiral Michael Glenn

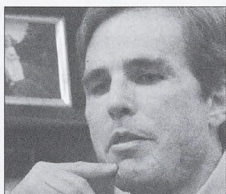
LOS ANGELES: Millionaire film producer **Stephen Bing** loaned his Boeing 737 jet for former President Bill Clinton's August flight to Pyongyang to obtain the release of TV journalists **Laura Ling** and **Euna Lee** from North Korean imprisonment. Bing, a friend of the former president, paid about \$150,000 for the crew, fuel and secure communications for the trip, the *New York Daily News* reported. When they returned home, the two women said they were held in isolation from each other during most of their five-month captivity, and the rice they were fed contained rocks. In a brief stopover at a U. S. airbase in Japan, Ling and Lee enjoyed their first "real old-fashioned American breakfast," Clinton said. "They had to be careful, since they had been on a radically different diet for almost five months, to measure their intake."



Photos and news reports of the meeting between Clinton and Kim Jong-il that led to the freeing of the two women were widely circulated and published by the North Korean government to bolster the Great Leader's image at home. One article said, "Many news agencies all around the world reported the news of the Great Leader comrade Kim Jong-il's meeting with the ex-president of the United States," listing ABC, CBS, Fox News, CNN, AP and several newspapers. Scott Snyder, director of U. S.-Korea policy at the San Francisco-based Asia Foundation commented, "There is definitely propaganda value to that picture that we saw, which will be pasted all over the place, of Kim standing next to Bill Clinton."

Mullen, chairman of the U. S. Joint Chiefs of Staff. "It was really important for me to go back," Woodruff said after returning home.

"I always covered war for very important reasons. To see what our country is doing, what our soldiers and Marines are doing and how they are living through war. This for me is fulfilling my addiction I've had for so many years, for international reporting."



Bob Woodruff

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, California: Mike (Buck) Tharp was toasted July 31 on his return from Iraq by former foreign correspondent colleagues at a barbecue at the home of **John** and **Chris Needham**. Over the years, Tharp was based in Tokyo for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. He was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan from 1989 to 2000. Buck, now executive editor of the *Merced Sun-Star*, spent part of this summer reporting from Iraq for the McClatchy newspapers.

PARIS: After the owners of Gamma photo agency filed for bankruptcy protection in July, *The New York Times* wrote, "Many practitioners [of photojournalism] may well be wondering how much longer they can scrape by." Gamma lost \$4.2 million in the first half of this year as sales fell by nearly a third. From Paris, world center for photo journalists with headquarters of Gamma, Sygma, Sipa and Magnum, *Times* correspondent **David Jolly** wrote, "Newspapers and magazines are cutting back sharply on picture budgets or going out of business altogether, and television stations have cut back on news coverage in favor of less costly fare. Pictures and video shot by amateurs on cellphones are posted to websites minutes after events occur. Photographers trying to make a living from shooting the news are calling it a crisis.... [Photojournalism] experienced a golden age lasting from before World War II through the 1970s. Magazines

like *Time*, *Life* and *Paris Match* — and virtually all of the world's major newspapers — had the budgets to put legions of shooters on the ground in competition for the best pictures."

ROTTERDAM: The AP got into trouble with the Dutch government when it distributed four pictures of Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, Princess Maximá and their daughter Princess Amelia while they were on holiday at an Argentinean ski resort this summer. The government information agency, RVD, told the newspaper *NRC Handelsblad* that under the media code the royal family can be photographed only at official functions. In exchange, the royals posed for official photo-ops while on vacation. Several newspapers published AP's non-official photographs. Legal action against AP will be dropped if AP removes the pictures from their database, RVD said in a statement.

The AP issued the statement that it "strongly believes that the interests of freedom of information far outweigh the desire for privacy. AP believes that the court will fairly decide the outcome on the basis of the facts presented at today's hearing." The AP's lawyer, Niels Mulder, argued that the photos of the family were for the media to decide if they were newsworthy, not the courts or the royals.

SAN DIEGO: **Bob Page** reports that he recently acquired the *San Diego Metropolitan Magazine*, a monthly largely about business, and the *North Park News*, a community newspaper in San Diego. Four years ago, he sold a group of community papers in southern California.

Before moving to California, Page was a UPI business manager in London; a UPI vice president in Hong Kong and New York; editor of the *San Antonio Light*, vice president and general manager of the *San Antonio Express-News*, and president and publisher of the *Boston Herald* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

"Our work [in San Diego] is cut out for us in this economy, but the challenge was too irresistible," Page wrote in an e-mail. "I couldn't sit on the sidelines any longer."

ST. LOUIS: In lieu of a thesis, **Susan Gallagher** (formerly **Graw**) earned her master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri by writing freelance dispatches from Hong Kong. She now is director of corporate communications for Ameren Corporation, a Fortune 500 utility company with headquarters in St. Louis that distributes natural gas and electricity in Illinois and Missouri. When Gallagher was a student journalist in Hong Kong in 1973, she filed dispatches to 12 U. S. newspapers and taught at Chinese University. Her husband **Jim Gallagher** now "is struggling to stay on at the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* as they lay off people and cut the size of the paper," Gallagher wrote in an e-mail. They have two daughters, one a PR manager at Peabody Coal Company, the other studying at the Sorbonne in Paris.

TEL AVIV: **Sylvana Foa**, a former UPI correspondent in Asia, Eastern Europe and the agency's foreign editor and later a spokesperson for the U. N. secretary general, will teach a course on conflict reporting this autumn at the Tel Aviv extension of New York University. "**Brooke Kroeger** asked me [to teach this course] and I could not turn her down," Foa said in an e-mail. Foa has lived in Israel for several years.

Kroeger, a former *Newsday* correspondent at the U. N. and earlier a UPI correspondent in Europe and Israel and regional editor for Europe, Middle East and Africa, is director of the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at NYU.



Brooke Kroeger

Brooke's books include *Nellie Bly: Daredevil, Reporter, Feminist* [New York: Times Books, 1994].

TOKYO: The magazine of the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, *Number 1 Shimibun*, this year is publishing reminiscences of former members who reached the zenith in journalism. OPC member **Nicholas D. Kristof** and his wife, **Sheryl WuDunn**, *New York Times* correspondents, lobbied for joint appointments to Japan when they were finishing up their tour in China. They arrived in Tokyo on New Years Day

1995 after a year of Japanese studies. "We got the jobs, although perhaps mostly because *The Times'* accountants salivated at the prospect of paying only one munificent housing allowance for two correspondents," Kristof wrote. "I peaked early. Overall, Japan waned steadily as a news story in the late 1990s. Once we Americans were no longer afraid of Japan's economic juggernaut, we also turned out to be not so interested, either. The front page became more and more resistant to Japan datelines, and the paper began dispatching me around Asia and the world." Kristof and WuDunn left Tokyo in 1999.



Sheryl WuDunn



Nicholas Kristof

Norman Pearlstine, also an OPC member, wrote about his *Wall Street Journal* assignment to Tokyo, 1973 to 1976, when he "spoke not a word of Japanese" and shared a telephone with the AP copyboy. "I was intimidated by **Dick Halloran** and **Fox Butterfield** at *The New York Times*, **Don Oberdorfer** at *The Washington Post*, **Sam Jameson** at the *Los Angeles Times*, **Beth Pond** at *The Christian Science Monitor* and, especially, **Bernie Krisher** at *Newsweek*." But working in the AP bureau, Pearlstine said he was helped by **Roy Essoyan** ("When I missed the last train home to Kamakura, I would sleep on the couch outside Essoyan's office"), **John Roderick**, **Ed White**, **Skip Martin** and **Masayoshi Kanabayashi**, and encouraged by friends at the FCC including **Ed Luchica**, **Al Cullison**, **Klaus Bender**, **Don Kirk** and **Atsuko Chiba**, "one of the most tenacious, courageous journalists I have ever worked with."

UNITED NATIONS: OPC member **Edie Lederer** visited **Horst Faas**, also an OPC member, in Germany in July, and they started making plans for a reunion of Vietnam War correspondents in Ho Chi Minh City next year on April 30, the 35th anniversary of the end of

that war. In a message to former Vietnam correspondents, Lederer wrote, "While some have said the old Saigon of the '60s and early '70s is gone, Ho Chi Minh City remains fascinating to us, and we look forward to seeing the changes to the city. We also look forward to seeing our old Vietnamese colleagues and meeting young Vietnamese." Faas, 75, veteran AP photographer, was paralyzed from the waist down by a spinal illness when he visited Hanoi in 2005.

Lederer, chief AP correspondent at the U. N., reported on August 5, "I visited Horst Faas in the hospital in Murnau, Germany last month. He has been there since February and has undergone numerous operations arising from complications related to his paralysis. He is now starting to sit up and has begun to use his wheelchair on a limited basis in the hospital garden."

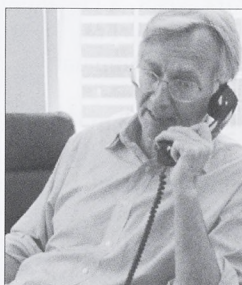
Both Lederer and Faas reported from Vietnam during the war.

WASHINGTON: **Seymour Hersh** will receive the Founders Award from the International Center for Journalists at its November 12 awards dinner in the Ronald Reagan Building.

Hersh, a *New Yorker* correspondent, was cited for his investigative reporting over 40 years including the massacre of Vietnamese civilians by U.S. troops at My Lai and his series on abuses in Abu Ghraib prison. At the same dinner, Knight International Journalism Awards will be presented to **Cao Junwu** of China for his reports on the 2008 Sichuan earthquake in Southern Weekend, and to **Chouchou Namegabe Nabintu** for her radio reports on sexual violence against women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Edie Lederer



Seymour Hersh

(Continued From Page 7)

OPC member **John Barton**, a former correspondent in Asia, and his wife **Anne** are going through old storage boxes and discarding the unneeded, downsizing in preparation for possible relocation in a year or so.

Barton, a world reporter, has found a lot of old stuff in those boxes. He worked for UPI from 1959 to 1984 with overseas assignments from 1961 to 1967 in Pakistan, South Asia and Tokyo. Based in Washington from 1967 to 1984, Barton covered Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's Middle East shuttle diplomacy trips; traveled with Vice President Spiro Agnew to South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia; and accompanied President Richard Nixon to Paris for Charles deGaulle's state funeral

Ten U.S. journalists won International Reporting Project Fellowships to report for nine weeks from foreign countries this summer. They are **Perry Beeman**, *The Des Moines Register*, reporting in Rwanda; **Theresa Bradley**, freelancer, Brazil; **Joanna Kakissis**, freelancer, Bangladesh; **Miranda Kennedy**, freelancer, India; **Julia Lyon**, *The Salt Lake Tribune*, Thailand; **Tara McKelvey**, *The American Prospect*, Russia; **Amna Nawaz**, NBC News, Pakistan; **Jessica Silver-Greenberg**, *BusinessWeek*, Kenya; **Joby Warrick**, *The Washington Post*, Middle East; and **Sharon Weinberger**, freelancer, Georgia. The program is directed by OPC member **John Schidlovsky** at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at The Johns Hopkins University.

WEDDING

Suzanne Rozdeba was on a backpacking assignment through Ecuador for a travel story in July 2003 when a mutual friend introduced her to **Michael Holcomb**. "We traveled through Ecuador for two weeks," Rozdeba was quoted in the *New York Daily News*. "We both love adventurous travel. We just clicked." Holcomb pro-

posed to Rozdeba in New York City's Central Park in November 2006, presenting her with his grandmother's 60-year-old sapphire ring. Rozdeba, 30, a former *Daily News* reporter, and Holcomb, 39, a financial manager, were married June 27 at St. Francis Assisi Church in Krakow, Poland. "We chose Poland because my parents were married in Poland," the bride said. "Weddings are very celebratory there. We love that it lasted a couple of days." The wedding ceremony was led by her grandmother's priest from Newark, New Jersey. The couple is planning a two-week backpacking expedition through Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos next January.



Suzanne Rozdeba and Michael Holcomb

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Ted Polumbaum of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a retired photojournalist who started his career in 1951 writing scripts for Acme News Pictures followed by United Press and Time-Life, died August 6 after a brief hospitalization. His overseas assignments took him to India, Vietnam and Chile. Polumbaum and his wife, **Nyna Brael Polumbaum**, were authors of the book *Today Is Not Like Yesterday: A Chilean Journey*.

Budd Schulberg, 95, novelist, screenplay writer and journalist who filmed evidence against Nazi leaders and arrested one of their colleagues, died August 5. During World War II, Schulberg made information and propaganda films for the U.S. War Department and the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the CIA. In Germany at war's end, he helped put together filmed evidence against the Nazis for the Nuremberg war crimes trial. Wearing his military uniform and with an arrest warrant in his pocket, he tracked down **Leni Riefenstahl**, who

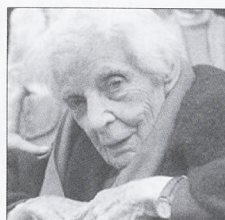
made propaganda films for Hitler, in her Bavarian chalet and took her to Nuremberg in an open-air military vehicle. Schulberg's literary works included the 1941 novel *What Makes Sammy Run?* and the 1954 film *On the Waterfront* in which Marlon Brando spoke the memorable lines, "I coulda been a contender. I coulda been somebody. Instead of a bum, which is what I am." At his death, Schulberg lived in Westhampton Beach, New York.

Amos Kenan, 82, an Israeli writer whose anti-religious and anti-Zionist views irritated the political establishment, died in Tel Aviv August 4. After fighting in the Israeli Defense Forces during the 1948 Arab-Israel War in which he was wounded, Kenan wrote a satirical column in the newspaper *Haaretz*, taking potshots at religious leaders. From 1954 to 1962, he lived in Paris writing several plays and columns for two newspapers, *Haolam Haze* and *Yediot Aharonot*. Kenan returned to Israel in 1962 and wrote a new column for *Yediot Aharonot* that ran for 40 years and several novels.



Amos Kenan

Marcey Jacobson, 97, a New Yorker who lived for 53 years in Mexico photographing indigenous Indians, died July 26 in San Cristóbal de la Casas, Mexico. A self-taught photographer, she first visited San Cristóbal in 1956 for a short stay. But finding the place "the solution to everything," she settled there for the rest of her life. Her work, some 14,000 negatives, became widely recognized in 2001 when 75 of her photos were published by Stanford University Press in the bilingual book



Marcey Jacobson in 2006.

Burden of Time/El Cargo de Tiempo. Trained in mechanical drafting, Jacobson worked on drawings for the first radars during WWII.

Udo Nesch, 69, a former CBS News cameraman in Hong Kong and Indochina, died in Cyprus July 15. He retired to Cyprus with his partner Christine several years ago.

Mohd Razman Abdullah, 60, a retired journalist in Malaysia, died of a stroke April 25 at his home in Kuala Lumpur. Two months before his death, he learned that he had lung cancer. Razman began his career as a reporter with the *New Straits Times* before moving to United Press International, then to Malaysia's national news agency Bernama and then to the *Malay Mail* as editor. Before retiring, he returned to the *Straits Times* as editorial training manager. To provide training for media practitioners, Razman set up Salmiah Razman Communications, named for his wife, a former journalist who survives.

Santha Rama Rau, 86, an Indian journalist who helped demystify her homeland for American readers, died of cardiopulmonary failure in Amenia, New York, April 21. Born in India and graduating from Wellesley College in 1945, Rama Rau wrote about her travels in Asia, Africa and the former Soviet Union for publications including *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Holiday* and *The New York Times Magazine*. She also wrote books and adapted E. M. Foster's novel *A Passage to India* for the stage. In an interview with *The Wichita Beacon* in Kansas, she said, "If we can make ourselves — the Indians — real people to the Americans, we shall have done more than our politicians are able to do." Rau's marriage to **Faubion Bowers**, a writer who was an expert on Japan's kabuki theater, ended in divorce. Her second marriage in 1977 was to **Gurdon Wattles**, a U.N. legal officer who died in 1995.

Captive Journalists' Cases Raise New Issues for OPC

by Larry Martz

Journalists everywhere breathed easier in recent weeks after freelancer Roxana Saberi was released by the Iranian government, and former President Bill Clinton persuaded North Korea's Kim Jong-il to free TV journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee. But the two cases raised broad new questions about the dangers facing a new generation of reporters, and about what actions are appropriate in such circumstances.

The OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee was among the first of many international press watchdog groups to call for freedom for the three women, as we have protested the arrest of *Newsweek* correspondent Maziar Bahari in Iran and countless other journalists held by other governments in recent years. In our view, some of the issues raised by press critics viewing these cases are clearly red herrings. But others are more troubling, reflecting the sea-change in international journalism in recent years and demanding a new consensus on the rules of journalistic conduct and even who is a journalist.

Let's dispose of the red herrings:

Is it only attractive young women who win media attention, public sympathy, and eventual release?

In a word, no. Bahari's arrest on charges of conspiring to undermine the Iranian regime has deservedly won considerable attention from watchdog groups, with at least five major petitions circulating to demand his release — though *Newsweek* has tried to mute publicity about the case, even as it pulls every string at its disposal to pressure the Iranian government to turn him loose. Many other male journalists have found equally strong support. In perhaps the most recent high-profile case, when the BBC's Alan Johnston was kidnapped in Gaza in 2007, the network held rallies, organized petitions, arranged for a simulcast on competing networks, and placed ads in newspapers to pressure his captors and call for his release. Johnston was freed after nearly four months in custody.

What happens to journalists who, unlike Ling and Lee, don't work for someone who can enlist Bill Clinton as an emissary?

True, U.S. citizens Ling and Lee were freelancing for Current TV, partly owned by former Vice President Al Gore, when they were arrested by North Korean border guards under murky circumstances near the Chinese border. Accused of "hostile acts," they were secretly tried and sentenced to twelve years at hard labor. Also true, when diplomatic probing found that Kim would respond favorably to a visit by Clinton, Gore called his former boss and asked him to make the trip; after dining with Kim, Clinton brought the women home on August 4. But it's equally true that Saberi, who held both U.S. and Iranian citizenship and was also freelancing (for the BBC and NPR, among others), had no prominent backers. She was arrested in January, 2009, on charges that escalated to espionage, was tried secretly, and was sentenced to eight years in prison. The BBC, ABC, Fox News and NPR came to her aid, issuing a joint statement and working behind the scenes through diplomatic contacts to secure her release. She was freed in May.

Journalists aren't supposed to be part of the stories they cover. Have the families of these imprisoned reporters crossed ethical boundaries in drumming up sympathy for them?



Laura Ling speaks to media upon arriving to California after being held by North Korea for five months. Former Vice President Al Gore hugs Euna Lee as Former President Bill Clinton, who helped to broker Ling and Lee's release, looks on.



Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi spoke to reporters in Tehran, a day after being released from prison. Saberi attended the OPC press conference on Iran in June but declined to speak directly of her experience while imprisoned in Iran.



BBC reporter Alan Johnston was seized and held by the Army of Islam group in the Gaza Strip for four months. He said: "It was like being buried alive... It was occasionally terrifying, being held by people who were dangerous and unpredictable."

(Continued on Page 11)

(Continued From Page 10)

Obviously, none of them wanted to be arrested. Once they were, they were part of the story, come what may. Their families and employers were entitled to do everything in their power to call attention to their plight. *Newsweek's* Chris Dickey may have crossed bounds of journalistic taste when he wrote what can only be called a sob story about Bahari's pregnant fiancée, but it was effective — and totally ethical.

The real problems raised by these and similar cases are more substantive.

As mainline journalism comes under rising pressure from the slumping economy and the changing media world, its retreat from international coverage invites smaller organizations to fill the vacuum. Fledgling outfits like Current TV and ambitious Web sites including GlobalPost.com and TehranBureau.com send freelancers, many of them relative newcomers without experience on the ground or a network of advice and support, to cover increasingly risky stories. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 45 of the 125 journalists arrested around the world in 2008 were freelancers.

Neither these reporters nor their occasional employers have the resources or political connections of major broadcast networks, wire services or established global news organizations.

How can the journalistic community support such neophytes when they get in trouble? Should there be a

formal organization to make sure no future Ling, Lee or Saberi falls through the cracks? An even harder question remains: Who, these days, counts as a journalist?

Not just freelancers but bloggers everywhere are setting up shop to report,

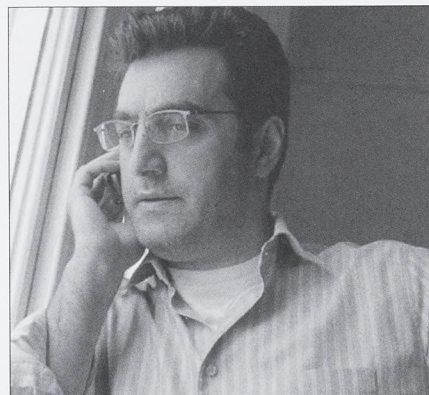
comment and bloviate on events and issues. Many of them are being jailed or otherwise harassed for their efforts. The OPC committee has taken the position that they are indeed journalists, under the definition long held by the United Nations Declaration of Universal Rights:

"Everyone has the right...to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

We have always resisted efforts to define, recognize and license journalists, since that has so often been the camel's nose of state control poking into the journalist's tent.

Perhaps it's time to reconsider.

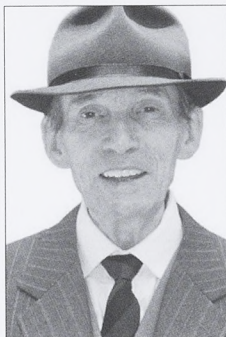
What do you think? Please comment on these issues by e-mail to info@opcofamerica.org.



Newsweek reporter Maziar Bahari was sleeping when security officers showed up at his Tehran apartment June 21.

New Books: (Continued From Page 12)

Correspondents' Club's magazine *Number 1 Shimbun* in reviewing *Tokyo: A Cultural and Literary History* [Oxford, England: Signal Books]. The author is Stokes's friend **Stephen Mansfield**, an author and photojournalist who has been living in Tokyo since the late 1980s. Stokes wrote, "Stephen's Tokyo is a labor of love. He has written of this city's cultural legacy since the year dot, but mainly as to modern times, and he has taught me lots...[giving me] an idea of the literary history of this place, where its roots are and how it is buzzing along today — as seen through the eyes of artists and intellectuals."



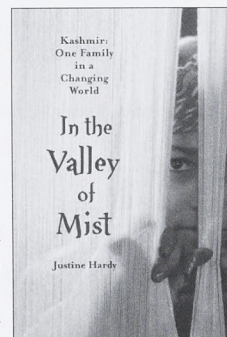
Henry Scott Stokes

THE KASHMIR VALLEY IS ONE OF THE MOST beautiful areas in the world. But since 1989 at least 80,000 men, women and children have been killed in the valley by fighting between neighboring India and Pakistan. **Justine Hardy** explains this violence as it affects a Kashmiri family she has known for years in *In the Valley of Mist: Kashmir: One Family in a Changing World* [New York: Free Press]. Describing life inside a culture held hostage by violence and prejudice, Hardy explains the

reports in her book, "They are not stories about big men, political bullies, or military giants, but they are about those who were there before the fighting began, and who will still be there if it ever ends. This is about the survival of ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. It is a story that is relevant far beyond the valley setting, and the conflict within Islam."

Hardy, who has lived in Kashmir for 20 years, bases her book on the Dar (not their real name) family of houseboat owners and carpet sellers. Daughter of the English actor Robert Hardy, the author grew up in England, as a little girl vacationed with her mother in India and started her career as a stringer in India for Australian newspapers.

She now writes for the *Financial Times* and freelances for *The Times* of London, *Vanity Fair*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and other publications. She has also worked in television and radio.



Justine Hardy

— by **Al Kaff**

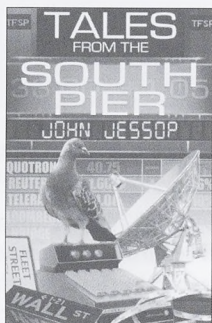
New Books

GLOBAL

A 40-YEAR HISTORY OF THE delivery of market data is the subject of *Tales from the South Pier* [Twickenham, England: Athena Press Publishing] by **John Jessop**, who was there. A veteran of the financial information industry, Jessop formerly was president and chief executive of Bridge-Telerate, chief operations officer of Telerate and a senior executive at Reuters.

The publisher posted this comment on the Internet: "From the invention of the electric telegraph to the emergence of the Internet, new technology has constantly stimulated our desire for information. Nowhere is that desire more intense than in the world's financial trading community, where survival depends as never before on instant and continuous access to market prices and market-moving news."

"The creation of that community,



by a handful of pioneering information companies, is the subject of this book. Its author spent a lifetime working for three of them, an improbably colorful career that took him from newsroom copy-boy to boardroom chief executive. From Morse to Murdoch, he explores the role of human foibles in the rise and fall of business enterprises within this hugely influential branch of electronic media, delivering along the way riotous anecdotes that include drinking, drugs, fist fights and sexual scandals."

POLITICAL CARTOONS ARE

"a very good way of learning history," Winston Churchill once said. **Mark Bryant**, who has published books on the cartoons of World War I and World War II, continues his series with *Wars of Empires in Cartoons* [London: Grub Street]. A former secretary and director of the London Press Club, Bryant in his latest book collects cartoons from eight of Britain's Imperial wars fought during the Victorian era including the Crimean, Opium and Ashanti Wars. His text identified the reasons for and major points of each conflict. In one



The Russian Bear

cartoon, the Russian Bear is trapped, angry and alone while the coalition of the Ottoman Empire, Sardinia, Britain and France lie in wait in the woods, soon to be joined by Sweden. This cartoon was drawn by **John Leech** and published in *Punch* in 1855 shortly before the end of the Crimean War. A review in *PressNews*, the London Press Club magazine, commented, "Were they published today the racial depictions of the Chinese and African enemies would no doubt raise a furore in today's overly sensitive race relations climate."

ASIA

WRITERS AND AUTHORS CAN teach us more about Japan than politicians, historians, economists or government officials. That is what British journalist **Henry Scott Stokes**, who has reported from Japan since 1964, wrote in the Tokyo Foreign

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

OPC Book Night

King of Vodka: The Story
of Pyotr Smirnov and
the Upheaval of an Empire
by Linda Himmelstein

September 14
6 pm
Club Quarters

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA